

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
February 27, 2018
Felix Juliani Room, Town Hall**

The Open Session meeting of the School Committee convened at 6:00 pm. Those present included Committee Chair Michael D'Ortenzio Jr., Vice Chair Matt Kelley, Secretary Melissa Martin, and members Tony Bent and Sharon Gray; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendents Judy Belliveau and Joan Dabrowski. The meeting was broadcast recorded starting at 6:30 pm.

CITIZEN SPEAK – No one present wished to speak

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Gray reported that the **PAWS Feasibility Working Group** held its first meeting with the project architect, Tappé Architects. The meeting centered around educational programming and assessing the space needs of the preschool. The group will be meeting every two weeks. A report is expected in May. Ms. Gray also reported the **School Building Committee** will be meeting on March 8th at which time SMMA will be reporting on its assessment of the St. Paul's school building.

Mr. Kelley reported that he attended the first meeting of the Standards Committee for the **NEASC accreditation process** at the high school. There are 15 members on the committee. He reviewed the mission of the committee and expressed his appreciation with the depth of experience from the faculty members who are participating.

Mr. D'Ortenzio, Jr. reported that the Playing Fields Task Force is working with the Facilities Management Department to determine how the cost of maintaining the **structures** at the new **high school track and field** will be covered. The FMD does not have the capacity built into its budget to maintain the additional facilities at this time. There is consideration to use funds from the PFTF fund and the WPS rental revolving fund to cover costs in the short term, and then a determination must be made as to usage of the facilities in order to quantify the maintenance costs.

Dr. Bent reported he and Ms. Gray attended the **Schofield School PTO** meeting which was a positive experience. He commended the Administration on the completion of the District's first **Progress Report**.

Ms. Martin announced that, rather than Office Hours in the month of March, the Committee will be joining the League of Women Voters for **Wellesley Meet Up**, on Saturday, March 10th. She also reported she attended the WPS **Kindergarten RoundUp** registration and the **Wellesley Green Schools Summit** which had representation from a number of Town departments as well as members of the community engaged in green initiatives. She was pleased to see WPS science coordinators and departments heads were also in attendance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lussier reported he recently attended the **AASA Conference** in Nashville where the Florida school shooting loomed large in many conversations. He is excited with the selection of Tappé Associates for the **PAWS feasibility study**, as the firm appears to have a good sense of how learning spaces have changed and recognize the need to ensure that the structures meet children's different learning methods. He is very pleased with the distribution of the District's first **Progress Report**, noting all members of the WPS community, as well as every household in Wellesley, has received a copy of the report. The Progress Report will be issued annually.

Dr. Lussier addressed **security** and the discourse that has been ongoing since the school shooting in Florida. He discussed the District's commitment to student and staff safety, and described steps taken in the past several years to improve security and preparedness in the schools. He reviewed infrastructure work that has been completed including improved access control, better ability to monitor and assess activities within and around schools, and enhanced communication systems within buildings and with law enforcement. In addition, all staff have been trained in the ALICE protocol and have participated in active shooter simulations facilitated by the Wellesley Police Department. Staff is also gearing up for student training which will be piloted at Schofield School next week and will include age appropriate exercises. There will be an in-depth update on security at the March 13th Committee meeting.

Dr. Lussier discussed student involvement on issues of school safety and announced that students plan to participate in **School Walkout Day** on March 14th. Faculty has been working with students on the planning of this event.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes: January 23, 30, February 6, 7 and 12, 2018 Open Sessions
- Declaration of Surplus Library Books – Hunnewell School

Upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Kelley requested that any edits made to the minutes be provided to the Committee prior to presenting minutes for approval.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICIES

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Dr. Bent and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve Policies BIBA (School Committee Conferences, Conventions and Workshops), JF (Admission of Students to WPS), and Facilities Rental Schedules for Policy KF.

Dr. Bent then reviewed the revisions to the following policies which are posted on the website: BBA (School Committee Powers and Duties), BHE (Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee), and Section E (Support Services).

Ms. Gray thanked Dr. Bent for his work in navigating through the Committee policies.

REVISIONS TO ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW

Discussion was deferred until the March 13th meeting.

TRIBUTES TO DR. BENT

Ms. Patricia Quigley and Ms. Wendy Paul, former SC members, thanked Dr. Bent for his work and dedication to students, noting his expertise as a resident, parent and grandparent of WPS students, former teacher and superintendent, provided excellent perspective on the Committee.

Each Committee member and Dr. Lussier then addressed Dr. Bent thanking him for his service on the Committee, commitment to excellence to students and expertise in the field of education.

Dr. Bent thanked the Committee members for their comments, and expressed his appreciation for the commitment and work of the Committee and Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:15 pm, upon a motion made by Dr. Bent and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Martin
Secretary

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- Policy BBA - School Committee Powers and Duties
- Policy BHE - Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee
- Policy Section E - Support Services